



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
NADLER.HOUSE.GOV

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE JERROLD NADLER

**Written Testimony for Transportation and Infrastructure 2023 Member Day
Hearing**

Transportation and Infrastructure

April 14, 2023

Thank you, Chair Graves and Ranking Member Larson, for holding this Member Day Hearing and allowing for written testimony to be submitted.

The New York metropolitan area has one of the highest rates of helicopter use in the world. The region is the most densely populated metro region in the United States, exponentially increasing the potential dangers of a helicopter accident in our city. Since 1983, we've had at least 30 helicopter crashes in New York City, with at least 25 fatalities, according to National Transportation Safety Board records.

Over the past decade, the region has seen increased numbers of non-essential tourism and commuter helicopters. Helicopter-related noise complaints to 311 have gone up in New York City by over 2300% in the last five years, and helicopter safety, noise, and environmental concerns are now one of the top issues I hear about from my constituents.

REPLY TO:

□ WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2132 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-5635

□ DISTRICT OFFICE:
201 VARICK STREET
SUITE 669
NEW YORK, NY 10014
(212) 367-7350

The overwhelming number of helicopter flights over New York City creates intolerable risks to the community and negative impacts on the quality of life of all its residents. For this reason, I introduced The Improving Helicopter Safety Act of 2021 to prohibit non-essential helicopter flights over New York City. I also introduced the Helicopter Safety and Noise Management Act, modeled after the Air Tour Management Plan legislation from 2000, aimed at decreasing helicopter-related disruptions for National Park visitors. Finally, I have submitted appropriations language calling for the House Appropriations Committee to take action to ensure that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) works to adequately address helicopter noise and safety concerns in the New York Metropolitan Area.

I have also written to the FAA several times—most recently in 2019—requesting that the agency issue Temporary Flight Restrictions to prohibit non-essential helicopter flights over the city. Despite requests for action from the majority of the New York City Congressional Delegation, the FAA has failed to take meaningful steps to address this issue.

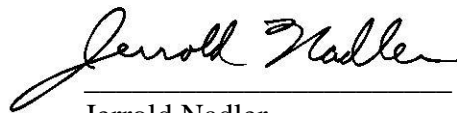
It is clear from our meetings and correspondence that the FAA values the financial well-being of a handful of helicopter tour operators more than they do the livelihoods and safety of over 20 million residents in the New York metropolitan area.

I request that the committee include language in the 2023 FAA Reauthorization Bill to adequately address the New York metropolitan area's helicopter safety, noise, and environmental concerns. I also request that you include legislation to ensure that the FAA implements the NTSB's recommended enhanced safety regulations for air tour operators, such as addressing exceptions, exemptions, and perceived safety loopholes and shortcomings in Part 91 passenger-carrying revenue operations.

Air tour operators in the New York metropolitan region, Hawaii, and across the nation have gone unchecked by the federal government while they disrupt whole communities with excessive noise and other impacts and increase safety risks to not only passengers but those on the ground. I urge the committee to work with the Quiet Skies Caucus, the New York metropolitan area delegation, the Hawaii delegation, and others to ensure that the FAA adequately addresses non-essential helicopter safety, noise, and environmental concerns.

Thank you, and I look forward to working with you and the committee to address this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jerrold Nadler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress